

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 192333

15

ORIGIN ARA-20

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TO AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 192333

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, NU

SUBJECT: PRESS INTEREST - "CASE OF THE 27"

1. DON BOHNING, LATIN AMERICA EDITOR OF MIAMI HERALD IS UNDERSTOOD TO BE PREPARING A STORY ON THE 27 NICARAGUANS WHOSE CIVIL RIGHTS RECENTLY WERE SUSPENDED FOR ADVOCACY OF ABSTENTION IN SUNDAY'S ELECTIONS. BECAUSE OF POSSIBLE INQUIRIES WHICH MIGHT RESULT FROM HEIGHTENED ATTENTION HERE TO THIS MATTER, INCLUDING POSSIBLE CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST, WE WOULD APPRECIATE PARTICULARLY CLOSE FOLLOW-UP TO THE EARLIER, EXCELLENT EMBASSY REPORTING ON THIS SUBJECT.

2. GIVEN KNOWN GON CONCERN WITH ITS IMAGE IN THE U.S. YOU MIGHT WISH TO INFORMALLY ADVISE THE GON AT APPROPRIATE LEVEL THAT THIS MATTER LIKELY WILL BE RECEIVING INCREASED ATTENTION HERE. IT MIGHT ALSO BE USEFUL TO REFER TO EARLIER CONVERSATIONS RE SECTION 32 OF FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT WHICH, WHILE DEALING IN SPECIFIC TERMS ONLY WITH POLITICAL PRISONERS, ACTUALLY MANIFESTS CONCERN OF CONGRESS WITH WHOLE AREA OF CIVIL RIGHTS. KISSINGER

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